

The
B I B L E
IN BRIEF



*A Digest of the
King James Version*

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The Bible's Challenge to Defeatism

A STUDENT of the Bible, especially if given to reading aloud, has something which others have not—unmistakably he has. Mark the pattern of his expression both in speaking and in writing. There is the compactness of thought and the quick coming to the point in telling a story or in making an argument. There is the graphic picture, the wealth of illustration, the varied vocabulary which arrest attention and make listening easy. Yes, readers of the Bible, lamentably rarer today than yesterday, enjoy a distinct advantage over non-readers whenever they appear in the drawing room or at the club, on the platform or on the printed page.

Reading the Bible has a mellowing effect on the individual, but this without detracting from his courage and prowess. It makes for manliness and virility. If any person doubts these propositions, let him peruse the heroic tales of the Old Testament, the moving ethical narratives of the New Testament, the dynamic sayings of him who spoke as never man spoke. He will find the hardness, the impatience, the bitterness, the cynicism which are too much a part of modern mood and conduct gradually giving place to consideration for others, to tolerance unalloyed by supineness, to graciousness vibrant with

strength and resolution. Meekness with power is the inevitable.

Let no man suppose that the Bible devitalizes the individual or makes him an appeaser. Here the experience of Hezekiah, king of Judea, is illuminating. Hezekiah had been a long time sick in Jerusalem. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, sent him presents. The guileless Hezekiah displayed his many treasures to the messengers. When Isaiah heard of the incident, he reproved Hezekiah: "Behold, the day is come that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store unto this day, shall be carried into Babylon . . . thy sons . . . shall they take away." Hezekiah answered, in the nerveless language of the appeaser, "Is it not good if peace and truth be in my days?" In due season the prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled. Nebuchadnezzar appeared; he plundered and deported. The Hebrew nation came to an end.

Time was when liberty rather than safety was uppermost in the thought of the Democracies. More recently has stalked the mesmerism that would satisfy people with ease and prosperity. There is danger of overlooking the high purpose that gives man a right to inhabit this planet—the purpose to improve a world still crude and unfinished. Not insecurity but in usefulness and progress lie salvation and satisfaction. Stability can never be won by cowardice, compromise, appeasement, or bargaining with predatory individuals or nations. Devotees of the Bible have never stooped to these quivering practices since the day Nero threw Christians to the lions.

Not a little comfort does one feel, in the presence of danger or illness or apprehension,

in such superlative lines as: "He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways;" "He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions;" "It shall come to pass that before they call I will answer, and while they are yet speaking I will hear;" "As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you;" "The Lord watch between me and thee when we are absent one from another."

A *Digest of the Bible* was brought out four years ago. It reduces the King James version to one-tenth the original size, and presents the Scriptural narrative in swift, unbroken sequence, without slant or comment. So favorable a reception has the *Digest* received that the Publishers believe this Pocket Edition, entitled *The Bible in Brief*, will be especially welcome in these troublous days.

While *The Bible in Brief* follows the original design of the earlier *Digest*, the Author has taken advantage of the opportunity to make numerous revisions. The major changes have been in the direction of enlarging or rounding out vital chapters, particularly in the Prophecies, the Psalms, the sayings and doings of Jesus, and the letters of the Apostles. The addition of valuable material has not impaired the clarity and rapid movement which have already made the *Digest* so attractive to the busy person.

For men in military service or for civilians who desire a stimulating classic to carry about with them, *The Bible in Brief* fills a real need.

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